2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

12 April 2010
English
Original: French

New York, 3-28 May 2010

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Algeria

1. Algeria believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, pursuant to article VIII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, effectively enhances regional peace and security and contributes towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime and realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

2. Algeria's actions have been aimed at promoting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. In its own geographical region it has subscribed to the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Denuclearization of Africa. Algeria has welcomed the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), which it became the third African State to ratify on 11 February 1998. In that spirit, Algeria welcomed the creation of similar zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South-East Asia and Central Asia, with the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Central Asia, respectively, which have undoubtedly effectively reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation and contributed towards the strengthening of international peace and security.

3. Algeria would like to reaffirm the importance and validity of the objective of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a continued top priority for the international community. It remains firmly committed to that objective as an essential element for the stability and security of States in the region. The achievement of that objective would help to establish and promote regional and international peace and security.

4. Algeria stresses that the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East meets a real security need specific to the region; it is therefore based on unique political and legal circumstances, having been the subject of a resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. This resolution is an integral part of the compromise package that led the Arab States

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parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to agree to its indefinite extension in 1995 in exchange for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

5. Algeria also recalls that the Final Document of the sixth Review Conference reaffirmed the importance and validity of that resolution, pending the realization of its goals and objectives. Under the terms of that document, the States parties explicitly called upon Israel to accede to the Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

6. In its capacity as a State party to the Treaty, Algeria signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in 1996 and fully complies with its obligations and commitments under the Treaty. Algeria believes that the comprehensive implementation of all provisions of the Treaty and its universality, particularly in the Middle East region, are prerequisites for the integrity, authority and credibility of the Treaty.

7. Algeria has always strongly supported efforts and initiatives to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. As a member of the Group of Arab States, Algeria is a sponsor of the resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and supports the resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, both adopted annually by the General Assembly. It also sponsored and voted in favour of resolutions GC(53)/RES/16, entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East", and GC(53)/RES/17, entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities", both adopted by the IAEA General Conference in 2009.